By the King.

A Proclamation to declare and publiſh His Maieſties reſolution, to aſcertaine His Reuenue, by granting His Lands holden aſwell by Copie, as otherwiſe in Fee-Farme.

WHereas at Our acceſſe vnto the Imperial Crowne of this Realme, wee found the Treaſures thereof exhauſted, the Reuenue of Our Lands much diminiſhed, and yet a great maſſe of Debts lying vpon Vs, & a dayly charge, which in an ordinary courſe muſt be borne for the ſupport of Our Honour, and a more then extraordinary charge for the neceſſary defence of Our Kingdomes, Wee being imbarked in a warre at Our firſt comming to the Crowne: And when wee entred into a ſerious conſideration of the ſeuerall parts of Our Reuenue, wee found them much too ſhort to maintaine Our ordinary Expences, much leſſe the extraordinary, which are neuertheleſſe vnauoidable. To the end therfore, that Wee might be fully and truely informed of the preſent ſtate of Our Reuenue in euery part thereof, and of the burthen which lyeth vpon it, and ſo bee better enabled, for the future, to diſpoſe and ſettle the ſame in ſuch an order, as that Wee might with more comfort manage Our Eſtate, wee thought it fit to make choyce of ſome Perſons of qualitie and experience, to bee Our Commiſſioners for Our Reuenue, and they to take into their eſpeciall care and conſiderations, by What iuſt and honourable meanes, Wee might retrench all vndue or vnneceſſary Charges, iſſuing out of Our Reuenue, or Coffers, and how to aduance and improoue ſuch parts thereof, as might admitte of an improouement; Which Our Commiſſioners hauing returned to Vs an Accompt of their paines from time to time in this Our Seruice, Wee finde by them that the caſuall profits of Our Lands, either by Fines for Leaſes, or Copy-hold Eſtates, Herriots, Reliefes, or therwiſe, haue, Communibus annis, yeelded to Vs, or Our Crowne, in diuers yeeres paſt, but a ſmall Summe, nor is like to doe in many yeeres yet to come; And yet out of the ſame there are iſſuing diuers Annuall Fees and Payments, amounting in the Whole to a great yeerely value.

Wee therefore, by the aduice of Our sayd Commissioners, intending to reduce Our Reuenue to a more certaintie, and to improoue our yeerely Rents in those places where it may conueniently admitte of such improouement, to abate Our vnnecessary charge issuing thereout, and yet to raise a present Summe of Money towards the defraying of those great expences, which for the publique defence of Our people and Kingdomes Wee cannot auoid, and for the supply whereof, Wee are resolued to spare nothing which lyeth in Our power, and for the satisfying of those iust debts, which dayly crie in Our eares, haue resolued, and by these Presents doe declare and publish Our Resolution to all Our louing Subiects whom it may concerne, That we will grant in Fee-Farme, all, or any of Our Honours, Manours, Lands, Tenements, Woods, & other Hereditaments, both in the Surucy of Our Exchequer, and of Our Duchy of Lancaster, aswell such as are held by Copie, as by Lease, Custodie, or otherwise, & aswell such as are yet in the hands of Our Commissioners when We were Prince, as other Our Lands in Mortgage, (which We purpose forthwith to redeeme) those Manors & Lands onely excepted, which are parcell of Our Duchie of Cornewall. And to this end We purpose forthwith to nominate certaine persons vnder Our Great Seale of England, to bee Our Commissioners, to whom Wee will giue full power and authoritie, for Vs, and in Our Name, to treate and conclude with any persons, for any parts thereof, aswell Mullets and Parcels, as entire Manours, at, and for such increase of Rents, or Fine, or both, as they in their good discretions shall thinke fit, and agree vpon: And We haue thought good thus to publish Our Pleasure and Resolution herein, that the present Tenants of Our Lands, and all other Our louing Subiects may take notice thereof, and may know whither, and to whom to make their repaire for this purpose; To which ende Wee will appoint Our sayd Commissioners to attend this Our Seruice on the twentieth day of September next, and so from time to time thence forward, at the Chamber, commonly called the Painted Chamber, in Our Palace at Westminster, whither Our pleasure is, that all such of Our Subiects, as shall bee desirous to purchase any of Our said Lands in Fee-Farme, as aforesaid, shall resort to make their agreements accordingly. And because this Our Resolution may take that effect which Wee desire and expect, Our Will and Commandis, that from henceforth, vntill Our further Pleasure bee knowen herein, no Estate or Lease by Copie or otherwise, bee renewed, granted, or altered by any, but by Our sayd Commissioners onely.

Giuen at Our Court at Nonesuch, the thirteenth day of August, in the second yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.

¶ Imprinted at London by Bonham Norton and Iohn Bill, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.
M. DC. XXVI.

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